Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Presently Amended) An isolated polypeptide, comprising (1) an extracellular domain of the transmembrane activator and CAML (calcium-signal modulating cyclophilin ligand) interactor (TACI), and (2) a trimerizing fragment of Heat Shock Binding Protein-1 ~~polypeptide~~ .

2.   (Original) A homotrimeric protein complex, comprising the polypeptide of claim 1.

3.   (Original) The isolated polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the TACI extracellular domain is selected from the group consisting of: (1) amino acid residues 30 to 110 of SEQ ID NO:4, (2) amino acid residues 1 to 110 of SEQ ID NO:4, (3) amino acid residues 30 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:4, and (4) amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claims 4-8. Cancelled.

9.   (Presently Amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim ~~8~~ 1, wherein the trimerizing ~~polypeptide has~~ fragment of Heat Shock Binding Protein-1 comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:22.

10.   (Original) The isolated polypeptide of claim 9, wherein the TACI extracellular domain comprises the amino acid residues 30 to 110 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

11.   (Original) A homotrimeric protein complex, comprising the polypeptide of claim 10.

12-17 cancelled.

18.   (Newly added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 1 wherein said polypeptide was produced in mammalian cells.

19.   (Newly added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 1 wherein said polypeptide was produced in *E. coli*.

20.   (Newly added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 1 wherein said polypeptide inhibits the activity of ztnf4 at a level greater than the inhibition of a TACI-Ig Fc fusion polypeptide.

21.   (Newly added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 1 wherein said polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag, wherein said affinity tag is selected from the group consisting of polyhistidine tag, calmodulin binding protein tag, substance P tag, the RYIRS tag, hemagglutinin A epitope tag, Glu-Glu tag, and the FLAG tag.